

THE 7WpE SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

21st Anniversary Shalom (Peace) Coin

AINA's First Anniversary

Melt Down & Discontinuance of Medals

SCOOP—Six State Medals

AINA's Trip to Israel—Extras

The Infamous "Calumnia" Tax

Lodz Ghetto Money

Trends in Palestine Mandate Coins

Ancient Judaeen Coins—Starter Set

Commemorative Chanukah, Purim Coins

New Clubs, Editorials, Book Review, Others

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Published by the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.

Israel Announces Its First U.S. Minted Commemorative Peace Coin

**Proofs and B.U.'s to be Struck in the San Francisco Mint
Some B.U.'s to be Minted in Jerusalem with mint/mark**

The Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Jerusalem, released the following information on the 1969 Independence Day Commemorative Coin "Shalom", to be issued by the Bank of Israel.

The coin is dedicated to the men and women who, at the sacrifice of their lives, safeguarded the universal right of men to live in freedom, in independence and in peace.

On the obverse of the coin appear the four letters of the Hebrew word "Shalom", of which the first letter "Shin" is designed in the form of a candelabrum, three of its seven branches appearing on the right side.

On the reverse appears part of the verse from Deuteronomy, Chapter 34:6, about the death of Moses: "And no man knoweth his place of burial." The words are arranged in the shape of a cairn, similar to the "Gal-Ed" which Israel's soldiers raised beside the battlefields in memory of their fallen comrades. Beside the cairn are a net-covered helmet and an olive sapling with its roots.

The silver crown has a nominal value of IL 10. The weight is 26 gr. The diameter 37 mm. It is minted in

brilliant uncirculated and in proof condition. The proof coin is marked with a tiny Hebrew letter "Mem".

The U.S.A. federal mint in San Francisco has agreed to mint the proof coins and the greater part of the brilliant uncirculated coins. The remainder of the brilliant uncirculated coins, earmarked for local sales, will be minted in Jerusalem by Kretchmer & Sons commissioned by the Bank of Israel under special security measures. They will bear a special mint mark, the Hebrew letter "Kof", ("K" for Kretchmer).

"The coins will be distributed by the Israeli banks in New York. Reservations will be taken in the order of their receipt," announced Mr. Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel in New York. "The procedure of ordering will be announced in time, before Israel's 21st Independence Day — April 23, 1969," added Mr. Milo. Mintage figures are as follows: Proof 20,000, B.U. (U.S.A.) 40,000, B.U. (Jerusalem) 20-30,000.

For further information please contact the office of the Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel, 850 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Whilst walking on the shores of Ashkelon and the sand dunes of ancient cities, you may find old coins." This message has been delivered to us from Israel. What can be more impressive and meaningful than celebrating our very first anniversary on the soil of Israel — the Holy Land?

Together with the participants of this forthcoming numismatic tour of Israel, I will be emotionally motivated to convey your devotion and dedication to the cause of Israel numismatics.

On this occasion we would like to welcome the newly formed A.I.N.A. affiliated clubs in Chicago, Quebec and Washington, D.C. Two additional societies are in the offing of INS of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts to be formed in February, 1969.

The forthcoming Israel commemorative "shalom" coin expresses the feelings of humanity for the world 'peace', and there is no other way to end than say "Shalom" to all of you.

MORRIS BRAM, *President*

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN



It was only yesterday when a group of people with a common interest — Israel numismatics — got together with a grandiose idea, that of forming an educational informational non-profit group, to aid and assist the student of Israel numismatics.

One of the inspiring forces behind the scenes was none other than Mr. Joseph Milo, the Assistant Trade Commissioner of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.

Your editor was asked to be present, and was given the task of assembling a new publication of the soon-to-be-formed new group. It was a beautiful and far-fetched dream.

All proceeded with their assigned tasks creating AINA with *The Shekel* as its organ.

It really is a milestone achievement in such a short time.

Without the aid and support of the AINA membership which is a source of inspiration to the directors and staff of *The Shekel* such an achievement would have been impossible.

NATHAN SOBEL, *Editor*

AINA EDITORIAL

Happy birthday AINA on your first anniversary. All of your achievements are too numerous to mention here. However, we will mention a few: several thousand members in your fold in 20 countries, and in every state of the union with about 15 clubs all over the country and many more in formation or in the planning stage; an elaborate educational forum held in New York City and a second one planned in Jerusalem; members are receiving their proof and specimen coins at reduced rates. These are remarkable achievements for only one year.

We are most thankful to the respective mayors of Jerusalem Mr. Teddy Kollek, of Ashkelon, Mr. Rehavia Adivi, of Acre, Mr. Yosef Katran and Deputy mayor of Tiberias, Mr. Israel Gur as well as Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Mr. A. Kindler, Director of the Kadman Museum and Dr. E. W. Kilimowsky, President of the Israel Numismatic Society for their contribution and assistance they have extended to our members in the forthcoming trip to Israel.

Happy Birthday – AINA!

by Joseph Milo

A congratulatory message on the First Anniversary



For the past year, ever since its conception, we have been following closely the establishment and activities of the American Israel Numismatic Association, and cannot help but admire its achievements at both the organizational and educational levels.

To an impartial observer, the AINA symbolizes public movement for Israel numismatics and the expression of public interest in the history behind the coins of Israel – ancient and modern. This is solid evidence that Israel has become an indisputable factor in the international numismatic scene.

Having had some experience in organization and educational activities, there is no doubt in my mind that AINA could not have reached its present stage without having on its Board and in its ranks persons as devoted and dedicated as its President, Morris Bram, the Editor of this publication, Nathan Sobel, and contributors such as Ed Janis, Nathan Goldman, Sylvia Haffner, Matthew J. Van der Voort, Mel Wacks, Wilma Thompson and Stanley Lechner, to name only a few.

One of the interesting aspects of Israel numismatics, which is also connected with the activity of the Bank of Israel and the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, is that the motivation in the issuance of coins and medals is derived from ancient themes and historical sites. These inspire the motifs of the Coins and State Medals of Israel, by which acquisition collectors provide the funds needed

for the preservation and restoration of these same sites. This is a gratifying feeling in which I am sure that you, as an AINA member, share too.

The AINA, through its members, is thus acting as a goodwill ambassador of Israel numismatics. As such, it should be credited with two great educational achievements: the establishment of local Israel numismatic societies, and the trip to Israel – quite a unique numismatic feature – which will enable participants to relive history in the same places where it was made, and to bring new meanings to the coins and medals in their collections.

These are no small achievements and, for an organization which just celebrated its first birthday, this is not only a fully deserved success, but also an indication of great initiative, intent, and most important, ability to create through numismatics a new link among nations.

May your endeavors bear fruit not only in bringing Israel numismatics as such to all parts of the world, but also in strengthening the feelings of brotherhood between nations which help create a better world.

Joseph Milo

Shekel vs. Sela: The sacred Shekel (Shekel ha-Kodesh) used in payment for redemption of a first born son in the Hebrew observance of Pidyon ha-Ben, had twice the value of the common silver shekel. It was slightly larger in size than an American half-dollar. The common silver shekel was known as "Sela" in post-biblical Hebrew.

* * *

Controversy: Are the three objects on the ancient unique Quarter Shekel, three ears of wheat, or three palm branches?

JOSEPH MILO is the Assistant Trade Commissioner of the Government of Israel in the United States and Canada. Through his efforts Israel numismatics has achieved great distinction in a relatively short time. Education, public information and protection of the individual collector are his major goals and activities.



The Hon. Wilbur J. Cohen, Secretary of Health, Education & Welfare, viewing the new 1969 - Israel Coin Specimen Set, following the inauguration ceremonies of the newly established Israel Numismatic Society of Washington, D. C. held at the Smithsonian Institution, with an overflowing audience of coin collectors and local dignitaries.

From right to left: The Hon. Eva Adams, Director of the U. S. Mint; Mrs. Wilbur J. Cohen; The Hon. Wilbur J. Cohen; Dr. S. Halperin, Asst. Secretary of H.E.W.; Mr. J. Milo, Asst. Trade Commissioner of Israel.



The Board of Directors of the newly established I.N.S. of Washington, D. C. with some of the dignitaries attending the ceremonies; right to left, Mr. H. J. Nussbaum; Dr. H. E. Altman; Morris Bram, President, American-Israel Numismatic Association; The Hon. Sheldon Cohen, Commissioner of Internal Revenue; Rabbi N. Golinkin; Dr. S. Halperin and J. Milo, the Asst. Trade Commissioner of Israel.

You are cordially invited to attend an
"ISRAEL NIGHT"
which will highlight the inauguration of the
ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON
an affiliate of A.I.N.A.
on Sunday, November 24th, 1968, 8:00 p.m., at the
Auditorium of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology
Our guests of honor will include the Hon. Wilbur J. Cohen, Secretary of Health,
Education and Welfare, the Hon. Sheldon Cohen, Commissioner of Internal
Revenue Service, the Hon. Eva Adams, Director of the U.S. Mint, Dr. and
Mrs. V. Clain-Stolantelli, Curators of Numismatics, the Smithsonian Institution.

The program will include:

- A. CELESTIALS
- B. ISRAEL FILM SHOWINGS
- C. AWARD PRESENTATIONS
- D. THE AWARD WINNING ISRAELI COINAGE AND MEDALS CORPORATION'S EXHIBIT

R.S.V.P.
Mr. H. Clapfel
Embassy of Israel
Washington, D.C.
HU 3-4100

Mr. & Mrs. _____ will attend ☐
regret ☐

Israel Night
Sunday, November 24th, 8:00 p.m.
Auditorium of the Museum of History and Technology, the
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Israel Numismatic Society of Washington, D.C.

The official invitation to the "Israel Night" at Washington, D.C. which was inaugurated on November 24, 1968.

Israel-Country of the Year!

At a recent Convention held by the 99 Company, producers of First day-First issue covers, Israel was honored as the "Country of the Year" at the Convention 2 banquet in Disneyland at Anaheim, California. Yitzhak Avni, the Director-General of the Israel Coins & Medals Corporation, Ltd., journeyed from Jerusalem to accept the award for the government.

Maurice M. Gould, well known syndicated columnist, made the presentation and stated the following: "Last year, because of the great cooperation we received in the production of our First day-First issue covers, Ireland was voted the 'Country of the Year.' This year, without any question, the 'Country of the Year' is Israel.

"Joseph Milo, the Assistant Trade Commissioner in New York City; Moses Cohen, Director of the Israeli Philatelic Service; and Yitzhak Avni were extremely cooperative in this venture. Mr. Avni is to be personally commended at this time for his outstanding assistance.

"The profit made by the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation is used for beautification and upkeep of the religious shrines in the Holy Land.

"The Israeli covers were well received and the first issue was completely sold out. Many more covers could have been sold if they were available. A 1969 Israeli cover is now in preparation and the specimen coins of this year will be used."

Avni responded and pledged further complete assistance during 1969. He was awarded a personal plaque as a memento of the occasion and also a special frame of Israel First day-First issue covers for presentation to his government.

A telegram received from Joseph



In the photo, Mr. Maurice Gould makes the presentation to Mr. Yitzhak Avni.

Milo of the New York office expressed congratulations and appreciation for the honors awarded his country.

One of the educational forums featured Claire and Ben Abelson, devoted numismatists, who presented their program of "Medals of Israel" and "The First Day-First Issue Covers of Israel" on slides with appropriate musical background.

Also included in the Israel triumphs for the evening was the "Best of Show" exhibit award won by Claire Abelson for her Israeli cover exhibit.

Many world-famous and distinguished numismatists and philatelists attended the banquet. Among these were — William and Evelyn Sadler; "Bill" is the President of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles and Evelyn is the Secretary; Ben and Claire Abelson; Ben is the founder of the L.A. Israel Coin Club; Jerry Yahalom, past President of the L.A. Israel Coin Club; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bergen; "Herb" is the first Vice-president of the American Numismatic Association.

The popularity of the Israeli coins is reflected in the enthusiastic reception given to the First day-First issue covers of Israel, which combine the two hobbies of philately and numismatics.

AINA Trip To Israel – Extras

by Nathan R. Goldman, Esq.



Elsewhere in this issue of *The Shekel*, you will read about the itinerary of our trip to Israel.

However, as you may note, the many unusual benefits of our trip are listed in blue and for these extras, we can thank not only the Israel Coins and Medals Corp. in Israel, but also Joseph Milo, the Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel in New York for their co operation.

Our round of festivities starts on the second day after our arrival. Nothing was planned the first day because we would just be getting our "land legs" after the plane trip.

The second day we will be tendered a cocktail party and reception at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv. Besides the many good things that will be offered us to appease our gourmet tastes, we will have the pleasure of meeting many Israeli officials and luminaries.

The next day, Thursday, March 13th, we will visit among other places, the City of Ashkelon, where the Mayor will personally conduct us on a tour of the coin city and where the town band will serenade us. This is the first time any group will be honored by being personally escorted by the Mayor of the city and the writer of these lines looks forward to meeting him. The Mayor attended the engineering school of the University of Pennsylvania during the period of Sept., 1920, to June, 1924. Your correspondent also attended the same university during the same period, albeit a different school. It is quite possible that we knew each other. Even if we do not, we will have plenty to talk about.

On Friday, March 14th, the Israel Government is going all out to add to our pleasure by staging an Israel Night

at the Hotel Dan Carmel in Haifa, one of the most beautiful hotels in Israel. The view of Haifa from the hotel is breathtaking. There will be Israeli songs, dances and music and the entertainers will be the best in Israel, especially chosen for this occasion. And when the gala is over, we will not have far to go, because we are staying at the Dan Carmel.

Tiberias is also one of the coin cities we will visit and again in our honor, the Mayor will tender us a special reception at the Hotel Galey Kinereth.

As you can see, there are many special events planned for us, but we are not through yet. On Monday, March 17th, the Mayor of Acre and his Arab Deputy Mayor will greet us and present us to the Moslem community in that city. We will be personally escorted by the Mayor about the city, and we will be treated by the Acre Folklore Group and Band. Acre is one of the most interesting cities in Israel for it is the City of the Crusaders. Many ancient monuments, ruins and places, will be visited by AINA.

The next day Mr. Itzhak Avni, the Director-General of the Israel Coins and Medals Corp. will give a reception in our honor and each member of the group will receive a gift of special numismatic value, so that we will always be able to relive this very fine trip.

No group visiting Israel has ever received such red-carpet treatment and I can assure all that none of us will ever forget the tour or the many delightful extras.

The time is getting short and all, who intend to go with us should send deposits in immediately. Do not be left out of this tremendous trip and fascinating experience.

Scoop To "The Shekel" Readers

6 State Medals shown to the public for the first time

by Nathan Sobel

The State medals shown below were struck by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation as medals officially commissioned for ceremonial distribution.

These medals are not available to the general public. One additional medal not available to collectors, was mentioned in "The Shekel" No. 2, p. 24. This medal was presented to the bereaved families of the fallen soldiers, so that Israel may remain free.

Following is a detailed description of the above medals:



2. The Rose of Sharon

This medal was commissioned by the Regional Council of Hod Hasharon on the occasion of the administrative union in 1966 of four villages in the Sharon Valley. The villages are: Magdiel, Ramataim, Hadar, Ramat Hadar. The flower is the lily of the valley typical of the sandy terrain of the region.



1. The Gideonim

Gideonim is the name given to the group of Hagana members who organized the illegal immigration after World War II. They were in Europe gathering the survivors and on the ships running the British Blockade. The whole story is told in the prospectus of the Immigrant Blockade Runners. The special medal, the obverse of which features the 20th anniversary, was commissioned by the committee for the publication of a book on the exploits of the Gideonim. The author is Shabatai Tevet.



3. The Port of Ashdod

This medal was commissioned by the Port Authority on the occasion of the opening of the Port of Ashdod. The emblems shown on the reverse each correspond to a point on the map. They are emblems of Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Ashdod, Eilat and the emblem of the Authority.



4. The Hebrew University medal was struck on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. The obverse shows the emblem of the University on the background of the fragment of a scroll. The reverse shows both campuses; above, Mount Scopus, which was then (1965) out of reach except to the maintenance personnel which was relieved every second week. As can be remembered the Mount Scopus campus formed an enclave in Jordan-held territory. Below, is part of new campus on Givat Ram.



5. The Yad Va-Shem medal should be called Yad Va-Shem and not 'Righteous Gentiles' or such nonsense. The medal is awarded by the Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority for acts of salvation. The design is allegorical explaining the saying from , , roughly translated: 'He who saves one single soul, is as if he saved the whole world.' The world goes on turning

because of such deeds and the rope around it is lifting those who were sinking (in the Holocaust). The other side shows a panorama of the Authority on Remembrance Hill.



6. The 26th Congress of UITP (Union Internationale des Transports Publics) was held in Israel in 1965. The design shows a contrast between modern and ancient, mainly oriental transportation media.

The Earliest Coins: It is believed that the earliest known coins were struck in Lydia, Asia Minor in the 8th century B. C. E. Series of lines or punch marks were depicted on pieces of metal made of gold or electrum. Lydia is north of Israel.

Electrum: Electrum is a pale-yellow alloy of silver and gold, used in the minting of ancient coins. Electrum is known today as white gold.

The First Copper Coins: The first copper coins appeared during the reign of Philip II of Macedon, Greece, between 359 and 336 B.C.E.

Did you know that... The Amphora with Fluted belly and scrolled handles with the Jug with one handle are two in a series of holy vessels depicted on coins of the Bar-Kochba War (132-135 C.E.).

Book Review

by Wilma Thompson



The Jews Among the Greeks and Romans by Max Radin, The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1915.

The fascinating interplay of Greek, Roman and Hebrew cultures has been examined in this historical volume. The analysis extends from the end of the Babylonian Captivity to the establishment of Christianity, roughly from about 450 B.C.E. to 350 C.E., some seven or eight hundred years.

The civilizations of Europe and America are composed of elements of many different kinds and of various origins. Many of the beginnings cannot be recovered within the limits of recorded history. But about a great many elements of our civilization and precisely those upon which we base our claim to be called civilized we know relatively a great deal, and we know that they originated on the eastern shores of the large landlocked sea known as the Mediterranean. Even if increasing archeological research renders us more familiar with the Pelasgians, Myceneans, Minoans, it is not likely that the claims of two historic peoples to have founded European civilization will be seriously impugned. These are the Greeks and the Romans. To these must be added another people, the Jews, whose contribution was no less real and lasting.

The Jews began to come into close contact with Greek civilization about the time of Alexander. The Macedonian hegemony produced a greater political unity than had been previously achieved, but above all a real cultural unity had been created, and was carried by arms and commerce over the East. To this the Jews, as other nations did, opposed a vigorous resistance. This resistance was successful insofar as it allowed the creation of a practically independent nation, and

particularly it stimulated the independent development of Jewish institutions, especially religious ones. For many centuries all the East had known a great spiritual unrest, from which had grown various religious covenants. Of all these the common goal was the attainment of a personal immortality, the "salvation of the soul". The Jewish aspect as of this general movement would have remained local had it not been given a wider field by the unusual position of the Jews, due to their dispersion. The Jews were by no means the only religious group in the Greek communities with proselytizing tendencies, but they were unique insofar as they were permanently connected with an existing national group, with which they maintained relations. The first stage of Jewish influence is marked by two things, a constantly increasing dispersion and an equally increasing propaganda that reached all stages of society.

At first the advance of the power of Rome materially assisted both the dispersion and its propaganda, since the support of Rome was an invaluable asset for the Hasmonean kingdom. The conquest of Pompey accelerated this development especially within Italy and Rome.

The relations of the Jews with the Greco-Roman world entered upon a second stage, that of armed conflict when the national and religious aspirations of certain classes of Jews, which culminated in the Messianic hope, came into contact with the denationalizing tendencies of the imperial system.

The third stage of Jewish relations consists of an adjustment of the Jews to the rapidly centralizing empire, the great period of Roman law with its application of juristic principles. The

Continued on page 36

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis

Q.—I have a 1949 25 mil BU(Haffner P-2). On the obverse—the side with the wreath of olive branches, date and the 25—my coin is missing the lower crescent shaped link at the top together with the dot on either side of the link. There is no evidence of them ever being there. One dealer told me that a similar coin in worn condition was described by one of his customers. I wonder if you could mention it in THE SHEKEL to find out if others are around? Dr. B. J. Z., Detroit, Mich.

A.—Here it is. We would like to have a photo that we would publish. All readers are requested to send in pictures of unknown or unidentified material so that the identification could be more positive through the published photo than through individual description. Getting back to your coin, there are examples of similar cases due to a clogged or filled-in die. In U.S. coinage, the most widely known example is the 1922 cent. All cents of this year were struck in Denver and should have a D under the date. On one die, dirt gradually filled in the D so that we have 1922D cents with every stage from sharp D, faint D, and finally no D due to the impacted dirt. It will be interesting to see if the readers send reports of coins with a weak lower link or any other intermediate state of the die. Remember that conditions were not ideal in “that little obscure factory in Tel Aviv” in 1949.

Q.—I noticed that there are numerous

Israel Numismatic Societies springing up in cities all over the U.S. I would like to see one in the Detroit area and would be willing to work to set it up but I do not know anyone else in the area who may be interested. I thought that you could possibly help me contact others with an announcement in the next SHEKEL. Dr. B. J. Z., Detroit, Mich.

A.—Glad to. Interested readers are urged to contact Burton J. Zack, M.D., 19467 Livernois Avenue, Detroit, Mich. 48221. After you have your initial group, AINA will, together with the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, co-sponsor an Israel educational numismatic forum night in your city.

Q.—I purchased a copy of “Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period” by Ya’akov Meshorer. (Ed. note: Review by Wilma Thompson, Autumn, 1968, P. 14.) I note that after the description of certain coins, he would have R or RR. On a few he had RRR. What does this mean? P. G., Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

A.—This is a rarity system that had its origin in middle Europe around 1850. R means Rare; RR is Very Rare; RRR is Extremely Rare; and RRRR is Excessively Rare. The RRRR designation is only given to coins that are unique or semi-unique. If a coin is described as RRRR, there cannot be more than two known. The American system in effect today has a seven point rarity scale. Rather than show it as RRRRRR, the Ameri-

Continued on page 28

The Infamous "Calumnia" Tax

by Edward Janis

Still smarting from his inability to suppress the Jewish rebels, the ablest field commander of all the Romans, Vespasian, now Emperor, sent his son Titus back to Jerusalem to finish a job that he was unable to do. Mechanization in the form of rock throwers, giant rams propelled by wicker-sheltered soldiers, and portable fire missile towers soon had their effect — Jerusalem fell. Vespasian lost little time in striking aureus, denarius, and sesterius sized Judaea Capta coins. The former half-shekel tax paid to the Temple by Jewish males over 20, was now decreed to be payable to Jupiter Capitolinus in the form of the Roman equivalent—the didrachm. Under Titus (79-81 A.D.) and Domitian (81-96 A.D.), the last of the "12 Caesars", the tax continued.

Under Domitian the imperial collection agents, usually veterans of the war some fifteen years before, were vindictive in their application of "calumnia" or casuistic abuse of their legal collection methods. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines casuistic as "of or pertaining to casuists or casuistry." Casuistry is defined as: 1. Science or doctrine of dealing with cases of conscience and of resolving questions of right or wrong in conduct. 2. Sophistical, equivocal, or specious reasoning especially in regard to law or morals.

Strange how the books just gloss over the "Jewish Tax" and its eventual repeal. The logic of the revenge-minded ex-legionnaire collector reasoned that there was only one positive method of identifying a male Jew. If he was a Jew, he must be circum-

cised. The behavior of the collector was the demand of exposure of the genitals on the spot. This was usually well planned in public areas, family gatherings, etc. Occupying soldiers, on command of a collector, pounced on and tore off the clothes of a suspected Jew for examination. All this in the name of collecting a small head tax! The hatred was completely out of proportion to the collected tax. Domitian was at his end, universally hated, and put to death by conspirators in Rome in 96 A.D.

Marcus Cocceius Nerva was born in 32 A.D., and became Emperor at this time but, alas, he was hastened to his death in 98 A.D. It was a short rule but one that was esteemed by the peo-

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Trend in Palestine Mandate Coins 1927-1947

by Sylvia Haffner



The British Mandate coins were placed in circulation on November 1, 1927, and remained legal tender in Israel until September 15, 1948; in Jordan until June 30, 1951; and in Egypt until June 9, 1951.

Since the acquisition of the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip in 1967, small hordes of the Mandate coins have come to light. But none of the 20 Mils; this seems to be the most scarce denomination of the series. Perhaps, like the 25 Agorot, it was never used as much and reached the melting pot early.

Trying to collect this series in UN-CIRCULATED condition is one of the

greatest challenges that can be afforded a collector. Although there are only 59 coins in the complete date series, very few sets are known to exist in all uncirculated condition.

In February of 1968 in Israel, a small horde of 50 and 100 Mils were offered in uncirculated condition BUT NOT ALL DATES. The bronze coins are the most difficult to obtain with full mint luster; evidently they were not well preserved when they were put aside. The Israeli also handles his coppers as if they were all circulated, therefore causing discoloration to an uncirculated piece. Some of the Mandate coins have been known to be counterfeited.

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS 1927-1947 - ONE MIL

CAT. NO.	DATE	ALLOY	MINTAGE	F-VF	EF	UNC
PMC-1	1927	Bronze	10,000,000	.25	.50	2.00
PMC-2	1935	Bronze	704,000	3.00	5.00	10.00
PMC-3	1937	Bronze	1,200,000	1.00	1.75	6.00
PMC-4	1939	Bronze	3,700,000	.25	.75	5.00
PMC-5	1940	Bronze	396,000	3.50	6.00	15.00
PMC-6	1941	Bronze	1,920,000	.50	1.50	5.50
PMC-7	1942	Bronze	4,480,000	.25	.75	4.50
PMC-8	1943	Bronze	2,800,000	.25	.75	5.00
PMC-9	1944	Bronze	1,440,000	.50	1.50	5.50
PMC-10	1946	Bronze	1,632,000	.50	1.50	5.50
	1947	Bronze	2,880,000		NEVER RELEASED	

(Proofs were struck in 1927, 1939 and 1946.)

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS 1927-1947 - TWO MILS

CAT. NO.	DATE	ALLOY	MINTAGE	F-VF	EF	UNC
PMC-11	1927	Bronze	5,000,000	.25	.75	3.00
PMC-12	1941	Bronze	1,600,000	.50	1.50	6.00
PMC-13	1942	Bronze	2,400,000	.50	1.50	5.00
PMC-14	1945	Bronze	960,000	.75	2.50	10.00
PMC-15	1946	Bronze	960,000	.75	2.50	10.00
	1947	Bronze	480,000		NEVER RELEASED	

(Proofs were issued in 1927 and 1941.)

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS 1927-1947 – FIVE MILS

CAT. NO.	DATE	ALLOY	MINTAGE	F-VF	EF	UNC
PMC-16	1927	Cupro-nickel	10,000,000	.25	.75	2.00
PMC-17	1934	Cupro-nickel	500,000	3.00	5.00	10.00
PMC-18	1935	Cupro-nickel	2,700,000	.50	1.00	3.00
PMC-19	1939	Cupro-nickel	2,000,000	.50	1.00	3.00
PMC-20	1941	Cupro-nickel	400,000	3.50	6.00	11.00
PMC-21	1942	Bronze	2,700,000	.50	2.50	4.50
PMC-22	1944	Bronze	1,000,000	.75	3.00	6.00
PMC-23	1946	Cupro-nickel	1,000,000	.75	3.00	6.00
	1947	Cupro-nickel	1,000,000	NEVER RELEASED		

(Proofs were struck in 1927, 1939, 1941 and 1946.)

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS 1927-1947 – TEN MILS

CAT. NO.	DATE	ALLOY	MINTAGE	F-VF	EF	UNC
PMC-24	1927	Cupro-nickel	5,000,000	.75	1.25	3.00
PMC-25	1933	Cupro-nickel	500,000	3.50	6.00	10.00
PMC-26	1934	Cupro-nickel	500,000	3.50	6.00	10.00
PMC-27	1935	Cupro-nickel	1,150,000	1.00	1.50	4.50
PMC-28	1937	Cupro-nickel	750,000	2.50	4.00	7.50
PMC-29	1939	Cupro-nickel	1,000,000	1.00	1.50	4.50
PMC-30	1940	Cupro-nickel	1,500,000	.75	1.25	3.50
PMC-31	1941	Cupro-nickel	400,000	4.00	7.00	15.00
PMC-32	1942	Cupro-nickel	600,000	3.00	5.50	8.50
PMC-33	1942	Bronze	1,000,000	1.00	1.50	4.50
PMC-34	1943	Bronze	1,000,000	1.00	1.50	4.50
PMC-35	1946	Cupro-nickel	1,000,000	1.00	1.50	4.50
	1947	Cupro-nickel	1,000,000	NEVER RELEASED		

(Proofs were struck in 1927, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1946.)

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS 1927-1947 – TWENTY MILS

CAT. NO.	DATE	ALLOY	MINTAGE	F-VF	EF	UNC
PMC-36	1927	Cupro-nickel	1,500,000	2.50	6.50	15.00
PMC-37	1933	Cupro-nickel	250,000	6.00	15.00	35.00
PMC-38	1934	Cupro-nickel	125,000	27.50	40.00	75.00
PMC-39	1935	Cupro-nickel	575,000	4.00	10.00	25.00
PMC-40	1940	Cupro-nickel	200,000	10.00	20.00	45.00
PMC-41	1941	Cupro-nickel	100,000	37.50	50.00	65.00
PMC-42	1942	Bronze	1,100,000	3.75	12.50	30.00
PMC-43	1944	Bronze	1,000,000	4.00	15.00	35.00

(Proofs were struck in 1927, 1940 and 1941.)

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS 1927-1947 – FIFTY MILS

CAT. NO.	DATE	ALLOY	MINTAGE	F-VF	EF	UNC
PMC-44	1927	.720 Silver	8,000,000	1.25	2.00	5.00
PMC-45	1931	.720 Silver	500,000	6.25	15.00	35.00
PMC-46	1933	.720 Silver	1,000,000	3.00	7.50	10.00
PMC-47	1934	.720 Silver	398,861	7.50	17.50	40.00
PMC-48	1935	.720 Silver	5,600,000	1.50	3.00	5.00
PMC-49	1939	.720 Silver	3,000,000	1.75	4.00	7.50
PMC-50	1940	.720 Silver	2,000,000	2.25	5.00	10.00
PMC-51	1942	.720 Silver	5,000,000	1.50	3.00	5.00

(Proofs were struck in 1927, 1939 and 1940.)

PALESTINE MANDATE COINS 1927-1947 — ONE HUNDRED MILS

CAT. NO.	DATE	ALLOY	MINTAGE	F-VF	EF	UNC
PMC-52	1927	.720 Silver	2,000,000	2.75	6.50	10.00
PMC-53	1931	.720 Silver	250,000	30.00	45.00	60.00
PMC-54	1933	.720 Silver	500,000	10.00	25.00	40.00
PMC-55	1934	.720 Silver	200,000	30.00	45.00	60.00
PMC-56	1935	.720 Silver	2,850,000	2.50	5.50	10.00
PMC-57	1939	.720 Silver	1,500,000	3.00	6.00	12.50
PMC-58	1940	.720 Silver	1,000,000	3.50	7.50	15.00
PMC-59	1942	.720 Silver	2,500,000	2.50	5.50	10.00

(Proofs were struck in 1927, 1931 and 1939.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Above material is solely the opinion of the author.

Our "Shekel" Learns About Bank Of Israel's "SHEKEL"

by Nathan Sobel

From most reliable sources "The Shekel" has learnt that the Bank of Israel is determined to release a new series of coins to be known as SHEKELS. The new coin which will be legal tender of IL 10 will be issued this year for the first time and is planned to be continued every year thereafter. The difference will be with the appropriate dates. We have learnt that the new Shekel coin will be the same diameter as the Victory coin, the Jerusalem coin and the new Shalom coin, namely 37mm. The weight will be 26 gm. and the metal silver. This Shekel is to be known as PIDYON HABEN (Redemption of the first born son).

"The Shekel" has learnt that each year the Bank of Israel will issue a certain small quantity of this coin in proof condition in order to enable the students of Israel numismatics to complete their collections.

AINA, the largest Israel numismatic society in the world, congratulates the Bank of Israel and the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporations for the creation of this issue. This will enable the Jewish community throughout the world after 2000 years to use again a Shekel minted in reunited Jerusalem to redeem their first born son namely—PIDYON HABEN.

"The Shekel" has learnt from the above mentioned reliable sources that the Bank of Israel plans to issue the first series of the shekel during Au-

gust/September, 1969, and not as might have been understood from recent releases. Certain unauthorized sources have released incomplete information which might mislead you members of AINA to believe that they are the official spokesmen for the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation or any other government agency. We find it our responsibility and obligation to inform you that the only official sources for Israel coinage are the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation, the Bank of Israel and their respective representatives in USA, and other countries.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT COINS AND MEDALS CORPORATION SMELTS ISRAEL/CANADA TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP

We have learned from very reliable sources that the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation has smelted down 17,214 Israel/Canada Tokens of Friendship in New York City.

The Franklin Mint has defaced the dies as shown in picture.



Melt Down of Israel/Canada Token of Friendship

by Nathan Sobel

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation plans to melt down Israel-Canada Tokens of Friendship.

Reliable sources have informed "The Shekel" of a planned melt down of a certain quantity of the Israel-Canada Tokens of Friendship. The tokens were struck by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation at the Franklin Mint in 1967 to salute Canada on the occasion of its Centennial Celebrations.

We have been advised that only very limited quantities will be still available from the Corporation. Final figures will be released by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation very shortly. May I suggest that those members of the American Israel Numismatic Association, who have failed to acquire a specimen, should do so immediately in order to complete their collection of Israel coins and medals.

Information can be obtained from A.I.N.A., P.O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10008.



Government of Israel and AINA, Guests of WEVD

Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner for the Israeli Government Coins & Medals Corporation, representing the government of Israel, and Nathan Sobel, editor of *The Shekel*, representing AINA were interviewed by Art Raymond of the "Raisins and Almonds" program, radio station WEVD on Sunday, the 15th of December. They discussed the new 1969 Specimen Sets. The function of the Coin & Medals Corp. was reviewed by Mr. Milo. AINA, and its quarterly publication *The Shekel*, were ably represented by Mr. Sobel.

NUMISMATICS

Numismatics, the study of coins and medals, is the newest area of activity at the Magnes Museum. Mel Wacks, a Director of the American Israel Numismatic Association, has been designated Numismatic Consultant and in the past few months has already organized an Israel Coin Club, arranged for an exhibit of Israeli coins, issued an unusual Wooden Shekel token for purposes of publicity and fund-raising and started acquiring items for a permanent coin display at the Museum.

* * *

Numismatics can serve as an ideal method for familiarization with the last 2,000 years of history of the Jewish people — from the victories of the Maccabees through the modern miracle of Israel. The Museum is hopeful of obtaining contributions of coins and funds. Happily, the Museum has already received gifts from Edward Gans and Tom Donner, both noted professional numismatists.

* * *

The San Francisco Bay Area Israel Numismatic Society meets at the Museum on the second Sunday of each month from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. If interested, please write to Mr. Wacks at the Museum.

Israel Peace (Shalom) Coin Data Released Here

"Inaccurate data on the forthcoming Shalom (Peace) commemorative coin from Israel was disseminated here by unauthorized sources," announced Mr. Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel.

The official figures as released by the Bank of Israel follow:

- (a) 20,000 "proof" coins marked with the Hebrew letter "MEM";
- (b) 40,000 brilliant, uncirculated coins to be minted at the U.S. Federal Mint in San Francisco, California;
- (c) 20,000 to 30,000 coins, marked with the Hebrew letter "Koff", to be minted at the Kretchmer & Sons Mint, Israel, commissioned by the Bank of Israel.

"The coins struck in Israel are earmarked **mainly** for **local** distribution. However, the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation will permit collectors residing outside of Israel to obtain these coins for completion of their collection," added Mr. Milo.

Information about the availability of the Shalom (Peace) coin may be obtained from the office of the Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel, 850 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022; as well as from the American-Israel Numismatic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, New York 10008; and from all banks handling Israel's coins and state medals as well as distributors of numismatics.

Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp. Plans Discontinuance of Certain State Medals

Informed sources have indicated to "The Shekel" that sale of certain State Medals in bronze and silver editions will be discontinued as of June, 1969. The dies will be defaced publicly. Among the medals will be the B'nai

B'rith, Pablo Casals, Third Bible Contest, Tel Aviv Jubilee, Kadman Museum, Shavit, American Jewish Congress, Harp Contest, U.J.A., Hebrew Union College, ZOA, Shalom, World Council of Synagogues and others.

The Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation will shortly release a complete list of such medals, which will, of course, be published in the forthcoming issue of "The Shekel."

Information can be obtained from AINA, the Office of the Assistant Trade Commissioner and the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation, Jerusalem.

Philatelo — Numismatic Auction by N.Y. Federation

The annual public auction sale of stamps and coins for the benefit of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies will be held on Wednesday, February 19, at the Palm Garden suite of the Waldorf-Astoria. Sponsor of the event is Federation stamp and coin division.

The entire gross proceeds from the sale will be turned over to the Federation.

A call has been issued to all dealers in the industry to participate in the auction by contributing a single, block, sheet or scarce coin. Contributions are fully tax-deductible, and contributors will receive an acknowledgment at the full retail value before the sale.

Donors have been requested to make sure their lot has a minimum retail value of at least \$25. A committee of experts is being formed that will catalog and describe all of the material for the catalog that will be distributed at the time of the sale. Contributors will be given recognition by alphabetical listing, though the catalog will not specify who contributed what lot for the sale.

Contributions should be shipped as soon as possible to Irving Kahn, executive secretary, Federation Stamp and

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VISITING ISRAEL ONLY

MON. MAR. 10—NEW YORK. Leave in the evening from John F. Kennedy International Airport via overnight jet flight of EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES.

TUE. MAR. 11—TEL AVIV. Arrive Lod Airport in the AFTERNOON. Meeting at the airport and transfer to your hotel. HOTEL DAN (3 Nights).

WED. MAR. 12—TEL AVIV. Members attend convention and meeting with Israeli personalities and officials, under the auspices of the Kadman Museum in Tel Aviv. Ladies attend special fashion show. Afternoon—free.

EVENING: Cocktails and reception at the Dan Hotel, given by the Israel Government—meet Israeli officials and fellow collectors.

THU. MAR. 13—TEL AVIV. MORNING SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF ISRAEL'S LARGEST CITY includes Jaffa, its old port and Arab Quarter, the excavation site of ancient Joppa and the Archaeological Museum; drive through the new-immigrant suburbs and housing projects of Bat Yam and Holon, and Tel Aviv's modern residential areas. Then continue south via Yavneh (ancient center of Biblical studies), the new port-town of Ashdod and Nitzanim to Ashkelon-on-the-Sea — modern town and National Antiquities Park on site of Roman and Hellenistic ruins. Reception by the Mayor of Ashkelon and concert performed by the town's band in honor of this Study Tour. MID-DAY rest break in Ashkelon, with time for lunch and a stroll along Ashkelon's white beaches. Continue northward in early afternoon to Rehovot, center of agricultural and scientific research, for a visit to the Weizmann Institute of Science and Yad Weizmann, Memorial to Israel's first President. On to Rishon Le-Zion, one of the early pioneer settlements and known for its famous wine cellars, and return to Tel Aviv.

FRI. MAR. 14—TEL AVIV. FULL DAY EXCURSION THROUGH THE SHARON VALLEY AND THE CARMEL RANGE TO HAIFA: Drive via Herzlia and Nathanya to Caesarea to visit the ancient Roman Capital, its excavated and restored areas including the Roman Amphitheatre, King Herod's Harbor and Crusader fortress. Continue via Zichron Ya'acov, famous vineyard center and site of Baron de Rothschild's Mausoleum and Memorial, to Haifa. Sightseeing of Haifa and Mt. Carmel includes the Persian Gardens of the Ba'Hal Faith Temple, the Campus of the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) and a breathtaking panoramic view of the Haifa Bay from Mt. Carmel.

HAIFA. Arrive your hotel in the evening. HOTEL DAN CARMEL (3 Nights). Evening of genuine Israeli folklore—music, song and dance—given in honor of the tour at the Dan Carmel. Meet with Haifa dignitaries.

SAT. MAR. 15—HAIFA. SABBATH—Day at leisure. Opportunity to take OPTIONAL EXCURSION BY AIR TO EILAT: After brief flight over the Negev desert you land in Eilat where sightseeing in and around this bustling resort and port city in-

cludes the Timna Copper Mines, King Solomon's Pillars and the site where King Solomon's Mines are believed to have been located, cruise on the Red Sea in a glass-bottom motorboat to observe coral beds and tropical marine life. Time for a swim in the Red Sea at the Coral Beach. Return by air in late AFTERNOON. (Additional cost \$37.00).

SUN. MAR. 16—HAIFA. FULL DAY EXCURSION TO THE GALILEE AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS including Acre, Meron (Tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai), Safad (medieval center of Mystic studies), Rosh Pina, Hazor, Kibbutz Ayelet Hashachar, Metzudat Yesha, Kiryat Shmona, Kibbutz Dan, Tel Dan, Baniyas (headwaters of the Jordan), Quneitra (Syrian town in the Golan Heights), B'not Ya'acov Bridge, Kibbutz Mishmar Hayarden, Mahanayim, Capernaum, Tiberias and Nazareth. Special reception by the Mayor of Tiberias at the Galei Kinereth Hotel. Return to Haifa.

MON. MAR. 17—HAIFA. Morning: Visit Acre and attend special reception by the Mayor and the Arab Deputy-Mayor who will greet the group on behalf of the Moslem community in Acre. Acre folklore dance group and youth band will welcome group. Mayor will host visit to the old city of Acre. Early afternoon departure for Jerusalem via Megiddo, Jenin, Sebastia, Nablus and Ramallah.

JERUSALEM. Arrive your hotel in the EVENING. HOTEL KING DAVID (3 Nights).

TUE. MAR. 18—JERUSALEM. MORNING SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE NEW CITY includes the residential district, the Knesset (Parliament), and welcome by Mr. David Hachohen, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, new campus of the Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical Center with its Synagogue with the famous Marc Chagall stained glass windows, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum, Israel Museum, Mea Shearim Orthodox Quarter and Mt. Zion (King David's Tomb and Chamber of the Martyrs). AFTERNOON SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF THE OLD CITY. Reception by Mr. Y. Avni, Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, and presentation of special numismatic gift to commemorate the tour. Drive to the Jaffa Gate, then on foot to visit David's Tower, the Old Jewish Quarter, the Western Wall (Wailing Wall), the Temple Area of Mt. Moriah, the Rock of the Sacrifice, the Dome of the Rock, El Aksa Mosque, site of Solomon's Temple and Stables, Lion's Gate, St. Stephen's Gate, the Praetorium, via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

WED. MAR. 19—JERUSALEM. FULL DAY EXCURSION THROUGH THE WEST BANK: Drive via Bethlehem, Hebron (Tombs of the Patriarchs) and Tel Shoquet to the new town of Arad. Then proceed on the ascent to the amazing and remarkably well-preserved rock fortress of Massada to visit the recently excavated and partly restored fort, the Herodian Palace and Roman Camps, continue to Jerusalem, arriving in the EVENING.

THU. MAR. 20—JERUSALEM. Transfer to Lod Airport for departure via morning jet flight of EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES. (New York. Arrive JFK International Airport in the afternoon.)

7 ADDITIONAL DAYS IN EUROPE

ATHENS. Arrive mid-day. Meeting at the airport and transfer to your hotel. HOTEL KING GEORGE (4 Nights). Balance of day at leisure.

FRI. MAR. 21—ATHENS. MORNING SIGHTSEEING IN ATHENS: The morning tour covers modern Athens and its collections of antiquities, visiting the National Archaeological or Benaki Museums, the University, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, Olympic Stadium and Byzantine Church of St. Eleftherios. AFTERNOON SIGHTSEEING IN ATHENS: This tour covers the Acropolis, crowned by The Temple of Wingless Victory and the Parthenon, as well as the House of Parliament, the Theatre of Dionysis, the Odeion of Herodes Atticus, Tower of the Winds and the Agora or Market Place.

SAT. MAR. 22—ATHENS. DAY free for independent activities.

SUN. MAR. 23—ATHENS. FULL DAY EXCURSION TO DELPHI: Through Thebes, Levadia and Arachova, famous for its multi-colored carpets, to arrive Delphi. On this site stood the ancient sanctuary to Apollo. You will visit the Temples of Athena Pronaia, and the Sacred Way, the Theatre and Stadium. Return to Athens by way of the Monastery of Ossios Loucas.

MON. MAR. 24—ATHENS. Transfer to the airport for mid-day jet flight.

ROME. Arrive early AFTERNOON. Meeting at the airport and transfer to your hotel. HOTEL PARCO DEI PRINCIPI (3 Nights). Balance of day at leisure.

TUE. MAR. 25—ROME. MORNING SIGHTSEEING OF MODERN ROME AND ST. PETER'S: Drive along fashionable Via Veneto, visit the Borghese Gallery, the Pantheon, Hadrian's Mausoleum. Then on to St. Peter's Square, dramatically enclosed by Bernini's Colonnade, and the Basilica of St. Peter, largest and one of the most impressive churches in the world. AFTERNOON SIGHTSEEING OF IMPERIAL ROME: You pass through Trastevere, and visit the Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Pagan Rome has left many monuments. You see the Pyramid of Caius Cestius, the Circus Maximus, Temple of Vesta, the Forum and Colosseum. Your trip ends by visiting the Church of St. Peter in Chains with Michelangelo's "Moses".

WED. MAR. 26—ROME. DAY free for independent activities.

THU. MAR. 27—ROME. Transfer to the airport for departure via daylight jet flight of EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES.

NEW YORK. ARRIVE John F. Kennedy International Airport in the AFTERNOON (same day).

HOTELS

	DAN	Tel Aviv
	DAN CARMEL	Haifa
	KING DAVID	Jerusalem
	KING GEORGE	Athens
	PARCO DEI PRINCIPI	Rome

IMPORTANT: In Israel—Price Includes Continental Breakfast and Table d'Hote Dinner : IMPORTANT

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Coin Division, Room 585, 130 East 59th Street, New York, N. Y. 10022.

The New York Federation is the nation's largest group of sectarian-sponsored health and welfare agencies. Federation helps support 130 member agencies presently providing assistance to 1,350,000 residents of the greater New York area, without regard to faith or race. Goal for the 1968-1969 campaign is \$29,500,000.



General Itzhak Rabin Receives Commemorative Medal From UJA at Young Leadership Cabinet Banquet

The Hon. Itzhak Rabin, Israeli Ambassador to the United States and Chief of Staff of Israel Defense Forces during the Six Day War, accepted the Itzhak Rabin Commemorative Medal at a UJA banquet at the New York Hilton Hotel, held September 12th.

The award was presented to General Rabin by Herbert J. Garon, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's Young Leadership Cabinet.

Rabin was the principal speaker at the closing banquet of the UJA Young Leadership national conference. The medal of sterling silver depicts General Rabin on the face, and a sculptured rendering of the Israeli Tank Force routing the Russian-supplied Egyptian armor in the Sinai Battle on the obverse.

Bronze copies of the commemorative medal were given as souvenirs to each member of the UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet at a United Nations seminar that immediately preceded the national conference.

To "THE SHEKEL" readers:

Coin collectors who have coin-minded children might like to know that DORIS B. GOLD, author of *STORIES FOR JEWISH JUNIORS* and editor of *THE YOUNG JUDAEAN*, oldest Jewish juvenile magazine in the U.S.A. (pub. since 1910), is these days stimulating interest in Israeli coins by distributing to each child in her *STORY HAPPENINGS* audience, sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board Lecture Bureau, a shiny new 1 agora, as shown on top of p. 24, Spring, 1968, issue.

Mrs. Gold distributes the coin after telling a story from her book, called *FATHER ROTHSCHILD AND THE BEGGAR*, in which she emphasizes the humor and need for giving away money by the rich, just as the Rothschild family did in the 19th century and even into modern times. She has already distributed 800 coins. When the programs occur at Jewish book month time during November and December, the coins have special "Chanukah gelt" meaning as well. Always, she is asked about where and how to get additional Israeli coins. She distributes a card giving the address of the Coins and Medals Division of the Government of Israel, so that children and their parents can become subscribers to new issues. Mrs. Gold comments that *THE SHEKEL*, which ought to be in every Hebrew school and local public library (it's just too expensive for children and doesn't have a juvenile section) is another source for children to discover Israeli coins.

Editor

Editor's Note: "Young Judaeon Magazine" is published by Hadassah Zionist Youth Commission in New York City. Mrs. Gold is also the author of the recently published "Stories for Jewish Juniors," a collection of stories for children.

Judaeae Jottings

by Mel Wacks



A Starter Set of Ancient Judaeae Coins

The pleasure obtainable from collecting ancient Judaeae coins is, happily, not directly proportional to the money spent. While there are many coins selling for \$100 to \$1000 and even higher, there are also many which almost anyone can afford. And there is no need to apologize for collecting the inexpensive coins. They represent, just as their rarer counterparts do, a physical bridge with the events and personalities of 2000 years ago.

I have compiled a suggested starter set of ancient Jewish and related coins. This can serve as a complete set in itself or as a kicking-off point for more sophisticated collecting goals.

The requirements for inclusion were that the coins had to be both inexpensive and easily obtainable, a combination which is not always mutually inclusive. The coins chosen are the lowest priced issues of most of the rulers of Judaeae plus several interesting issues commemorating events in Judaeae-Roman history.

Seventeen coins compose the complete starter set; they are bronze except as noted.

Coins SS1-4 and SS6 were issued by the descendants of Simon Maccabaeus.

Coin SS5 (silver denarius) was issued by Scaurus, the ambassador from Rome, who sided with Aristobulus II against his brother, Hyrcanus II, in their dispute for the kingdom of Judaeae. Aristobulus II pursued Hyrcanus II and his ally, Aretas III, the King of Nabataea, and inflicted a crushing defeat on them in 65 B.C.E.

Coins SS7-8 and SS13 were issued by Herod I ("The Great") and his descendants.

Coins SS9-12 and SS14 were issued by the Roman Procurators (Governors) of Judaeae.

Coin SS15 was issued by the Jewish revolutionaries — the Zealots, Sicarii and others during the First Revolt.

Coin SS16 (silver denarius) was issued by the Roman Emperor Vespasian following the fall of Jerusalem.

Coin SS17 was issued during the Second Revolt by Simon Bar Kochba.

The cost of this starter set comes to about \$400, certainly a bargain for such a chunk of history.

Illustrations by the author.



SS1 John Hyrcanus—137-104 B.C.E.



SS2 Judas Aristobulus—104-103 B.C.E.



SS3 Alexander Jannaeus—103-76 B.C.E.



SS4 Jonathan Hyrcanus II 67 & 63-40 B.C.E.



SS11 Valerius Gratus 15-26 C.E.



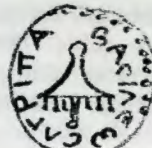
SS5 M. Scaurus 58 B.C.E.



SS12 Pontius Pilatus 26-36 C.E.



SS6~ Antigonus Mattathias 40-37 B.C.E.



SS13 Herod Agrippa I 37-44 C.E.



SS7 Herod I 37-4 B.C.E.



SS14 Antonius Felix 52-60 C.E.



SS8 Herod Archelaus 4 B.C.E.-6 C.E.



SS15 First Revolt 66-70 C.E.



SS9 Coponius 6-9 C.E.



SS16 Flavius Vespasian 69-79 C.E.



SS10 M. Ambibulus 9-12 C.E.



SS17 Simon Bar Kochba 132-135 C.E.

SS No.	REFERENCE NO. (1)	OVERSE	REVERSE	APPROX. PRICE (2)
1	Reif. 9 or 10	Laurel wreath. "JEHOCHANAN THE HIGH PRIEST AND THE COMMUNITY OF THE JEWS"(3)	Poppy-head inbetween two cornucopiae.	\$ 9
2	Reif. 13	Same as SS1 except "JEHUDAH" as High Priest	Same as SS1.	\$70
3	Reif. 15	Anchor. "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ" (King Alexander)	Sun-wheel with unin- telligible Hebrew inscription around. ("ALEXANDER"?)	\$10
4	Reif. 19	Same as SS1 except "JEHUDAH" as High Priest	Same as SS1.	\$15
5	Syd. 913	King Aretas III kneeling beside camel. "M.SCAVR.AED.CVR. EX. S.C. REX ARETAS"	Quadriga. "P.HVPSAE AED. CVR.C.HVPSAE COS. PREIVE CAPTV."	\$15
6	Reif. 25	Laurel wreath. "MATTATHIAS"	Ear of barley between two cornucopiae.	\$35
7	Reif. 33	Anchor. "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ (King Herod)	Caduceus between two cornucopiae.	\$15
8	Reif. 55	Bunch of grapes on branch with leaf. "ΗΡΩΔΟΥ" (Herod)	Helmet with cheek pieces and double crest. (Ethnarch)	\$20
9	Reif. 119	Ear of barley. "KAICAPOC" (Caesar)	Palm tree with two bunches of dates. "ΛΑΘ" (Year 39=8/9 C.E.)	\$15
10	Reif. 121	Same as SS9.	Same as SS9 except date. "LMA" (Year 41=10/11 C.E.)	\$15
11	Reif. 129	Laurel wreath. "TIB KAICAP" (Tiberius Caesar)	Palm branch. "ΙΟΥΛΙΑ ΛΑ" (Julia Year 5=18/19 C.E.)	\$16
12	Reif. 132	Litius (Augur's wand.) "ΤΙΒΕΡΙΟΥ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΟΣ"	Laurel wreath. "LIZ" (Year 17=30/31 C.E.)	\$35
13	Reif. 59	Umbrella with fringe. "ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΓΡΙΠΠΑ" (King Agrippa)	Three ears of barley. "LS" (Year 6=42/43 C.E.)	\$ 9
14	Reif. 136	Palm branch. "LE KAICAPOC" (Year 5=58/59 C.E.)	Olive wreath. "ΝΕΡΩΝΟΣ" (Nero)	\$ 8
15	Reif. 147	Narrow-necked amphora. "Year Two"	Vine branch with leaf and tendril. "DELIVERANCE OF ZION"	\$20
16	Cohen 226	Bust of Vespasian. "IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG" (Imperial Caesar Vespasian Augustus)	Female figure, repre- senting Judaea, in attitude of mourning at foot of Roman trophy. "ΙΥΔΑΕΑ" (Judaea)	\$45
17	Reif. 204	Vine leaf. "FOR THE FREEDOM OF IERUSALEM"	Palm tree with two bunches of dates. "SIMON"	\$40

NOTES: (1) The Jewish coins are attributed according to Reifenberg's "Ancient Jewish Coins," the Roman coins refer to Sydenham's "The Coinage of the Roman Republic" or Cohen's "Medailles Imperiales".

(2) The approximate retail price in "Fine" condition (i.e. all features of the coin's design and inscriptions clear and bold).

(3) Following inscriptions in Ancient Hebrew: Obverse SS1, 2, 4 and 6; Reverse SS3; Obverse and Reverse SS15 and 17.



Lodz Ghetto Money

by Louis Sarakoff



Introduction

For nearly 2,000 years, ever since the destruction of the second Temple, Jews have been in Diaspora. During the years of their dispersion, Jews have suffered all degrees of maltreatment and oppression extending even to expulsions and massacres.

In the dark ages, the Jews were blamed for the Black Plague and accused of witchcraft and ritual murder. During the Crusades, the Jews were singled out to be slaughtered and it was called Holy Purification in the name of G-d. The massacres became so bloody that wave after wave of Jews fled the land. In the Middle Ages, as the Roman Church grew in power, it triggered riots against the Jews, persisting in the spreading of lies about ritual murder.

With this as a background, Poland had the distinction of creating one of the world's first ghettos. In 1648-9 one of the greatest calamities struck the Jews of Poland. Cossacks of the Ukraine, aided by the Tatars, overran Poland. In the wake of victory, the Cossacks became obsessed with the idea of slaying every Jew in Poland, the Ukraine, and the Baltic States. Rivers of Jewish blood spurted from the hissing Cossack sabers during pogroms. Those who remained alive were plagued with boycotts, confiscatory taxation, anti-semitism, second class citizenship (they could not own any land), and expulsion from competitive crafts, trades, and professions.

In September 1939, the German army occupied Poland. Immediately the Nazi propaganda machine began to spread its vicious lies. The Jews

were blamed for the war. It was said that Jewish bankers who controlled all the money started the war to reap bigger profits. The whole war was called one big Zionist plot. The Polish people believed these lies since they were one of the most anti-semitic nations in the world. No other country during the Nazi era helped and cooperated with such zeal, in exterminating the Jewish population.

In Poland alone there were 7 major extermination camps and many minor ones. They were: Belzec, Majdanek and Sobibor, in the Lublin District; Chelmno in Western Poland; Treblinka in Central Poland; and Auschwitz and Brzezinka in Southern Poland.

The above 7 concentration camps had the total facility and capacity to exterminate over 100,000 Jews a day. Without the knowledge and full cooperation of the Polish people this would not have been possible. Although Hitler did not solve the "Jewish question" according to his plans, he did annihilate 6,000,000 Jews. One million children, the future generation, was annihilated without pity and in cold blood. One of the major war criminals, Frank, Governor General of Nazi occupied Poland, said at the Nuremberg trial, "A thousand years will pass and this guilt of Germany will not be erased."

The whole world must regard the Holocaust as a black page in the history of the 20th century. It will be impossible to study the history of this generation without contemplating this extraordinary occurrence.

At the same time, we should never forget that the state of Israel might

not have come into being in our time if not for efforts of the Jewish survivors of the Holocaust." The survivors of the Holocaust had been a significant factor in the political struggle to achieve this aim. It was the survivors of the Holocaust who won the War of Independence in 1948, and their children who made my dream and the ancient prophecy come true — Jerusalem once again under Jewish rule.

Of 3.5 million Polish Jews before World War II, only 100,000 survived the Nazi slaughter. Post-war emigration reduced the number to 25,000.

And now the final chapter is being written in Poland as the current anti-Jewish campaign reaches such proportions that it amounts to the systematic destruction of this small remainder of the thousand-year-old Jewish community.

Lodz Ghetto Money

The Ghetto of Lodz, called by the Germans "Litzmannstadt" was closed to the outer world on May 1, 1940. This camp was inhabited by Polish Jews from the parts of Poland that had been absorbed into the Third Reich, as well as the "intelligentsia" of Jewish origin from Germany, Vienna, and Prague. The last of these arrived in the autumn of 1941 where about 300,000 Jews and people of Jewish origin were concentrated in the Lodz ghetto. The majority of them later perished in concentration camps.

The Ghetto community in Lodz was given partial autonomy. This included a separate currency of bank notes and eventually coins. The ghetto also had its own post office and postage stamps.

The introduction of the Lodz Ghetto money dates from July 8, 1940 when German Reichmarks and Polish bank notes ceased to be legal currencies. The exchange began the next day. The new currency was called "Mark Receipts." This series of "Mark Receipts" was printed partly on watermarked paper. The print was done at the Manitius Printing House located on the Aryan side, under the

supervision of the Gestapo, and then delivered to the ghetto.

The lowest unit was the receipt for 0.50 Marks. The "Eldest of the Jews," M. Rumkowski, approached Hans Biebow, the German Commissar of the ghetto with a proposal that a Jewish mint be established to provide coins of a smaller denomination. Especially needed was a 10 pfennig coin. Biebow accepted the proposal but not until the early months of 1942. After long preparations, samples of the first 10 pfennig coins, produced of an alloy of aluminum and magnesium were sent to Biebow for his official approval. The first design for the coin was not acceptable because of its combination of German and Jewish elements.

A quote from Biebow's letter to Rumkowski commenting on the coin was published in "Israel Numismatic Journal" 1963, Part IV by Andrzej Piwowarczyk of Warsaw. The letter reads in part as follows:

"I have examined the samples of 10 pfennig coin, sent with your letter, dated 6 June, and I state the following:

1. The coin is the same size as the 10 pfennig German coin.
2. The number "10" has the same form as that on the German coin.
3. The use of the German oak leaves along with the star of David is intolerable.
4. The corn ears on the reverse side of the coin are also undesirable.

Therefore, I command as follows:

1. In order to avoid the waste of metal, the coin should be much smaller.
2. The design of the number "10" must be different from that of the German "10". It must be smaller and with a longer cross-barred (at the bottom).
3. The oak leaves are to be deleted, and the use of other symbols is unnecessary. However, a row of stars may be used.
4. The ears of corn on the reverse must be removed. Before you prepare a new die, I would like to have a new design submitted to me, so that unnecessary work in manufacture be avoided.

Evidently this coin was a trial piece and should be considered very rare. Rumkowski submitted a new design sometime in 1942, which was also rejected. Under these circumstances a third design for the 10 pfennig coin was prepared directly by employees of the Ghetto mint. This design was accepted by Biebow and production began in the fall of 1942. According to the Chronicle "Litzmannstadt Ghetto," 100,000 pieces of the 10 pfennig coin were delivered to the Ghetto through December 1942. These coins were made of so-called Electrum, a highly inflammable alloy, salvaged from destroyed Nazi airplanes. People who survived the hell of the Lodz Ghetto (887 out of about 300,100 were alive in 1945, when Lodz was freed) reported that the 10 pfennig coin lost its value in 1943 when inflation in the Ghetto became catastrophic. The price of a pound of bread, at that time rose to 300 Marks and the coins were sometimes used to make fires with, since there was no coal, wood, or other fuel available.

The current prices* for Lodz Ghetto bank notes and coins on the market are as follows:

	Unc.	Circ.
P.50 Pfennig	\$ 5.00	\$ 3.00
1 Mark	\$ 5.00	\$ 2.00
2 Mark	\$45.00	\$25.00
5 Mark	\$20.00	\$10.00
10 Mark	\$70.00	\$45.00
20 Mark	\$ 7.00	\$ 4.00
50 Mark	Rare in any condition. (Auction in Israel in 1967 for Circ. and torn, \$185.)	

Coins

Numbers used are attributed and catalogued by Terlecki.

	Unc.	Circ.
#249 10 Pfennig	\$150.00	
#250 10 Pfennig	\$100.00	
#251 5 Mark Alum.	\$ 45.00	\$15.00
#252 5 Mark Alum. & Magn.	\$ 25.00	\$10.00
#253 10 Mark Alum. & Magn. (Thin Discs)	\$ 25.00	\$10.00
#253 10 Mark Alum. (Thick Discs)	\$ 75.00	\$45.00
#254 10 Mark Alum. (Level die)	\$100.00	\$50.00 VP
#255 10 Mark Alum. & Magn.	\$ 30.00	\$10.00
#256 20 Mark Alum.	Rare	\$135.00

*The prices may vary at various places, and times.



The Approved 10 Pfennig Design



German 10 Pfennig



Design I



Design II



Design III

REPRINTS

DEAR READER:

With this issue of *The Shekel*, we are initiating a new series — reprints of interesting articles about Jewish coins and medals, published in various publications.

The first reprint presented herewith deals with "Coinage of the Jews."

EDITOR

"COINS, MEDALS AND SEALS," edited by W. C. Prime, published by Harper Bros. in New York City in 1864.

Coinage of the Jews

Although our earliest records of the use of money are found in the Hebrew sacred writings, we have no reason to suppose that the inhabitants of Palestine had any coined money until shortly before the Christian era. It is possible that the Persian coins, and those of other conquering nations, obtained currency from time to time among the Jewish people. But we may be well assured that they had no coin of their own bearing a national device until after the captivity.

The silver *shekel* has now become quite common in collections. A few years ago it was very rare. But within the past five years a large number of them have been found at Jerusalem, near the pool of Siloam, evidently washed down by the rain from some point on the hill of Moriah, or the opposite slope of Zion.

The only extant Jewish coins are the several varieties of this silver *shekel*. In the first book of Maccabees, xv:6, in the letter of Antiochus the king to Simon the high-priest, and to the Jewish nation, occurs this passage: "And I give thee leave to coin money of thine own stamp in thine own country." Simon Maccabeus probably coined, under this permission, the first national coinage of the Jews. We give an example of his issue. The

Jewish coinage, of course, bore no head of a God on its face. The second commandment forbade it. But the pot of manna and the buds of Aaron's rod were the devices adopted, with legends varying, but most commonly "SHEKEL ISRAEL," "JERUSALEM HOLY," or "SCHISCHIMON PRINCE OF ISRAEL." The legends were in the ancient form of Hebrew character, and not in the debased form in use since the captivity. An example is given in Plate III, Figure 6.

For what length of time this coinage continued in Jerusalem we cannot say. It is not probable that it was of long duration. The Greek and Roman currency took its place in time; and although coins of Herod and of Bar-kochebas the rebel are extant, it seems improbable that these were issued to any great extent. We have copper coins of Agrippa, very rare, and these complete the entire series of coins of Judaea.

It is impossible to give any idea of the money value of ancient coins in modern money terms. The size of the *shekels* now extant is larger than the American *quarter dollar*, and not so large as the *half dollar*. The weight is 274 Paris grains. In the 17th chapter of Matthew the temple tax, or tribute money, is spoken of as a *didrachma*. Elsewhere it is stated as a *half shekel*; and in the same chapter, 27th verse, a *stater* is made to pay the tax for two persons. The few verses at the end of that chapter give us some light on the relative value of the ancient Jewish, Roman, and Greek coins.

The Vine Leaf—a Symbol of War. The bible mentions seven kinds of fruit, one of which is the Vine-Leaf. This symbol is found on coins of the War of the Jews against Rome (66-70 C.E.) with the inscription "FREEDOM OF ZION."

Continued from page 11

can scale shows it as R7. The only exception to this is in the field of *essai* (trial) and pattern pieces. Here we find a 10 point scale with the highest rating being R10.

Q.—Where can I purchase plexiglass holders for the commemorative coins of Israel?

A.—Capital Plastic commemorative holders are available on order from most dealers.

Q.—What is meant by the inverted reverse 1 *Agora* pieces of 1963? R. L., Omaha, Neb.

A.—All reverses of modern Israel coinage are reversed except the 1 *Agora* piece of 1963 in question. Doesn't make sense? Take a U.S. coin out of your pocket and hold it "heads" up between your thumb and forefinger with the date on the bottom. With your other hand slowly turn the coin so that you are now looking at the "tail" side. It's upside down! In numismatics, this is known as a coin striking. In Israel, coins are struck as medal striking. In medals, when they are held and turned as above, the obverse and reverse face down — the same direction. There exists a scarce die variety with the inverted reverse. This would make it the same as a U.S. coin but inverted when compared to Israel's coins.

Q.—When I was in Israel a few years ago I purchased a copper Medal of Liberation. My friend has one but his does not have balloons in the sky behind the planter and another behind the uplifted baby. Is mine rarer than his? Mrs. S. L., Washington, D.C.

A.—Sorry to tell you that he has the rarer medal. This was the first government-struck medal. Earlier in 1958, a similar "Israel Government Approved" medal was struck by Jacob Japhet Co. It was quickly sold out. The demand for the first government medal was even greater. Collector demand for this continued long after the 25,000 authorized pieces were gone. To meet the demand, additional pieces were struck. In order to tell the difference between the restrikes and the original pieces, two holes were made in the restrike and these holes were filled in with metal "plugs". These appear as the "balloons in the sky" that you mentioned. Don't feel too bad about it. A few weeks ago I was looking at the framed Israel *Liberata* display in Ass't. Trade Commissioner Joseph Milo's office. His 1958 copper Medal of Liberation also has "balloons in the sky."

Q.—Some of my later brass medals have a different color than my earlier ones. How come? I. K., Los Angeles, Calif.

A.—Israel never struck brass medals. Four of the early ones were copper. They are the Medal of Liberation (M 1b), Medal of Valour (M-2), B'nai B'rith (M-3) and the International Harp Competition (M-5). The remainder of the base-metal issues were struck in bronze. These did vary in color according to the alloy. Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin. The more copper, the redder the medal. The more tin, the lighter or yellow-green. Copper has a small alloy for hardening purposes. Brass, which is not used in Israel's medals, is an alloy of copper and tin.

The Pruta Series

5 PRUTA

Metal: Bronze
Weight: 3.2 gm
Diameter: 20 mm
Year: 5709 (1949)
Edges: Smooth



OBVERSE: In the centre of the coin a lyre with four strings and the word "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic. The inspiration is the lyre seen on the obverse of coins from the period of Bar-Kochba's revolt (132–135 CE). The lyre was one of the instruments used in the Temple. It characterised, as did other motifs on the Bar-Kochba coins, the yearning to rebuild the Temple which was destroyed by Titus in 70 CE.

REVERSE: The inscription "5 Pruta –5709" (in Hebrew letters) between two olive-branches. The branches are joined by a line below which appears a dot. The design first appeared on the coins of the Hasmonean dynasty beginning with those of Yohanan Hyrkanos I (135–104 BCE). (See description of reverse of coin no. 1.)

The Story Behind The "Chanukah" Elongated

by Don Dow

In the Year 3586 (175 B.C.), Antiochus IV, a descendant of one of Alexander's generals, and also a neurotic, tactless person, became the ruler of the Jews. He began extracting heavy taxes and suppressing Jewish culture. Finally on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Kislev, in the year 3593 (168 B.C.), he committed the unpardonable act of erecting an altar to the Greek God Zeus in the temple. This started a three year rebellion led by Judas Maccabeus, which terminated in a Jewish victory in 3596 (165 B.C.).

The 25th of Kislev is again a prominent date. On this day Judas Maccabeus, being victorious, cleansed the temple and probably unintentionally instituted the unofficial holiday of "CHANUKAH," the "Feast of Lights".

The Talmud tells us that, in the desecration of the temple, most of the oil used in rituals had been lost. Only one crucible of oil remained. It appeared there was only enough oil to light the lamp for one day. Miraculously it lasted eight days.

Traditionally the lamp or "CHANUKAH" used in this unofficial celebration has either eight or nine recepta-



cles for holding oil. The most familiar to us has nine. The center one stands high and is called the "Shamus" or policeman. It is lighted first and from it are lighted the others. On the first day the Shamus and one other are lighted. On each subsequent day another is lighted until on the eighth day they all glow.

"CHANUKAH" often coincides with the Christian Christmas season and it has been said the lighting of Christmas Candles is derived from "Chanukah, the Festival of Lights."

New EL AL Medal

We have learnt from very reliable sources that the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation plans to issue a new State Medal called the El Al Medal in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the national airlines.

The medal will be struck in bronze, silver and gold editions (gold will not be available in the U.S.).

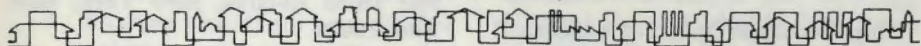
Details about the distribution will

be published shortly.

Information can be obtained from A.I.N.A., P.O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008.



Club News



CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

AINA TO INAUGURATE TWO NEW SOCIETIES

By Nathan Sobel

In full cooperation with the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, as well as with the Israel consulates in Boston, and Philadelphia, the AINA will establish the INS of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, during the second half of February, 1969.

With the establishment of these societies, the number of clubs affiliated with AINA will reach 12, a factor which all members of AINA can be proud of. The respective ceremonies are at the last stages of planning. Members from the respective states will be notified of the dates in order to enable them, and their friends, to participate in these events.

Further information can be obtained from AINA.

(SINS) NEWS RELEASE Sacramento Israel Numismatic Society

One of the largest crowds yet was achieved at the December meeting of the Sacramento Israel Numismatic Society. This was no doubt due to the double attraction of a Slide-Lecture on the City Medals of Israel, supplied by the American Israel Numismatic Association, and the generous gift of the 1969 New Year's Tokens by Joseph Milo on behalf of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, which were given to each member.

Two new members joined to bring the roster to a total of twenty-nine

members. Mel Wacks, President of SINS, extended a warm welcome to the twenty people present.

The club librarian, Dr. Sandy Rosenberg, told the group that copies of Haffner, Reifenberg and *The Shekel* were available for loan.

It was decided that the club would order the 1969 Israel specimen sets and an assortment of official government medals for sale to members at cost.

The 23 January meeting will feature Bernie Marks, who will show slides of the twentieth anniversary Independence Day Parade in Israel. The theme of this meeting will be "Numismatic Remembrances of the Six-Day War". All members and visitors are invited to bring their coins and medals commemorating that historic Israeli victory.

Esther Wacks, Secretary

FROM NEW YORK

The Israel Numismatic Society of New York, at our November meeting, decided to have an auction at one of our future meetings after the beginning of the New Year and even at this early date, many rarities have appeared to be auctioned. We think that this is an excellent undertaking, not only because it lends great interest to meeting, but enables many members to acquire desired coins.

We also have arranged a series of lectures, one each meeting throughout the year, illustrated with slides, concerning the historical background of Israel coins and medals. We hope that

these lectures will make our coins and medals more interesting and meaningful.

Our December meeting concerned itself, among other things, with the election of officers for the year 1969. Those nominated and elected were:

Morris Bram—President

Nathan R. Goldman—Vice-President

Frank Porcaro—Secretary

Wilma Thompson—Treasurer

We had a very successful year during 1968. Our meetings were always well attended and the work carried on was most interesting. Our meetings were even well attended in spite of very inclement weather and our weather was the worst in years.

We have welcomed many new members who, although new, have contributed much to our club. And above all, we are now busily engaged in preparing for the Israel trip of AINA. Many of our members are going and have already paid deposits to ensure a place.

The officers and members wish all a most healthful and happy New Year.

Nathan R. Goldman, Esq.

Acting Secretary

MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE IN CLEVELAND

The Israel Numismatic Society of Cleveland has announced a membership drive to be conducted during the months of December and January.

Members of this organization are actively interested in Israel coins, medals, currency and other items of Judaica. The group publishes a monthly newsletter entitled *The Agora* which announces meeting dates and programs and other club news in addition to timely topics of interest to collectors of Israel numismatic items.

A special feature of the last meeting was the showing of slides just released by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, together with a commentary giving the history of the famous Israel City Medals.

Anyone interested in these medals, the special lectures series, or any other phase of Israel numismatics is

cordially invited to write the Israel Government Coin and Medals Corp., 850 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

ISRAEL COIN CLUB OF LOS ANGELES TO INSTALL 1969 OFFICERS

The Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles will install a new slate of officers on Sunday evening, January 5th, 1969, at the Pump Room, 13003 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, California.

This Mother Club of Holy Land Collectors was organized in June, 1965, and has awarded membership #100 to Morris Taller at the November meeting.

The new slate will be headed by Bob Berman, President; Milton Fishgold, 1st Vice-President; Harold Wolpe, 2nd Vice-President; Linda Friedman, Corresponding Secretary; Evelyn Sadler, Recording Secretary; and Mel Fishel, Treasurer. The Board of Directors will be: Claire Abelson; Carl Chaplan; Esther Taller and William Sadler, Past President.

Junior Program Progresses

The Board of Directors at the November meeting proposed that Junior members be admitted starting at the age of 7 years. The entire membership unanimously voted and approved the action and three new members were admitted. The Juniors will meet the 4th Sunday of each month, one hour before the regular meeting, and will be under the direction of Jean and Maurice Gould.

1969 Five Point Program

Many new innovations will be offered the members of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles through the approved five point program headed by Claire Abelson as Chairman.

1. Israel FD-FI cover display at ?-3rd Convention, 1969.

2. Displays at Israel Coin Club meetings.
3. Literary awards for best articles entered into competition by members.
4. Membership awards for members bringing in new members.
5. Fund raising project for the club's treasury for the benefit of members.

Meetings are held at State Mutual Community Hall, 1500 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif. Doors open 1 p.m.

Leonard J. Sterling
Publicity Chairman
1550 Northwood Rd., 271-B
Seal Beach, Calif. 90740

EDITOR'S NOTE: Officers of other Israel Coin Clubs, please take notice of this very active club, and its most wonderful programs.

FIRST CANADA-ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY FORMED

The City of Montreal was honored to hold the inauguration of the first Canada-Israel Numismatic Society.

Over 250 Israel coin collectors, Numismatic authorities and local dignitaries filled the Gold Room of the Ritz Carlton Hotel here during the inauguration ceremonies of the Israel Numismatic Society of Quebec.

This newly established society is the first Canadian link in a chain of similar clubs initiated in North

America by the American-Israel Numismatic Association. The Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation in Jerusalem and Mr. Joseph Milo, the Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel, lend their full cooperation and guidance to the growing number of Israel coin collectors and enthusiasts here.

"A special study tour and convention will be held in Israel from March 10 to March 20, 1969, sponsored by the above and hosted by the Israel Numismatic Society," announced Mr. Milo.

The stimulating program in Montreal was coordinated with the Consul General of Israel in Montreal, the Hon. Dov Sinai; the Bank of Montreal; the Israel Trade Commissioner, Mr. Moshe Golan and the director of the Israel Government Tourist Office, Mr. Gideon Policar.

The program included presentation of awards, showing of films and an exhibit. Also, among the distinguished guests present were: Abraham Cohen, City Councillor, representing the Mayor of Montreal; Mr. D. R. McCallum, Senior Vice-President, Bank of Montreal; Mr. E. Victor Snell, President, The Canadian Numismatic Association; Mr. Cale Jarvis, Editor, Coin Stamp & Antique News; Mr. Morris Bram, President, American Israel Numismatic Association; Mr. Gordon E. Kaufman, Chairman, S. Bronfman Center of the YM-YWHA.



ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D. C. INAUGURATED

by Nathan Sobel

Washington, D. C.—The auditorium of the Smithsonian Institution was filled to capacity with an audience of 300 attending the inauguration ceremonies of the Israel Numismatic Society of Washington, D. C.—an affiliate of the American-Israel Numismatic Association.

On the dais from right to left: Dr. S. Halperin, Asst. Secretary, Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare; standing, Mr. J. Milo, Asst. Trade Commissioner of Israel; Mrs. V. Clain-Stefanelli, Co-Curator of Numismatics, the Smithsonian Institution; Mr. M. Bram, President, American-Israel Numismatic Association; The Hon. Eva Adams, Director of the U. S. Mint; The Hon. Wilbur J. Cohen, Secretary of Health, Education & Welfare;

The Hon. Sheldon Cohen, Commissioner of Internal Revenue Service; The Hon. Amos Eiran, Counselor, Embassy of Israel; Dr. V. Clain-Stefanelli, Co-Curator of Numismatics, the Smithsonian Institution; Mr. H. J. Nussbaum, Board Member, the Israel Numismatic Society of Washington, D. C.

The award-winning exhibit of the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation was on display at the Numismatic Section of the Smithsonian Institution until December 31, 1968. [See page 5]



ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS INAUGURATED

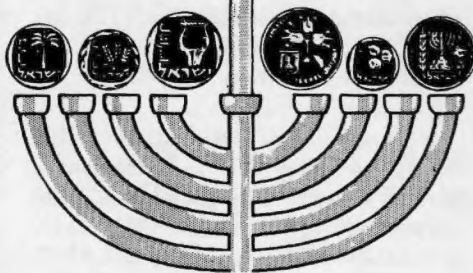


The Israel Numismatic Society of Chicago was inaugurated at the Palmer House here. Over 300 coin collectors, numismatic authorities and local dignitaries attended a program of ceremonies, lectures, films and exhibits. Seated on the dais from left to right: Mr. G. S. Smedly, Board of Governors, American Numismatic Association; Mr. M. Schwartz, Executive Secretary, Professional Numismatic Guild; Mr. Daniel H. Brown, President, Professional Numismatic Guild, Inc.; Mr. R. S. Yeoman, Editor, Whitman's Numismatic Journal; Miss Margo Russel, Editor, Coin World; Mr. Y. Avni, Director-General, Israel Government Coins & Medals Corp., Jerusalem; The Hon. A. Avidar, Consul General of Israel in Chicago; Mr. M. Bram, President, American Israel Numismatic Association; Mr. J. Teshler, Consulate General of Israel, Chicago; Mr. H. Flower, representative of the newly-founded Israel Numismatic Society of Chicago.

FEAST OF CHANUKAH (Feast of Dedication; Feast of Lights).—Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus Epiphanes, whose army was driven out of Palestine. While cleansing the Temple which Antiochus had defiled, the priests searched for pure olive oil to kindle the light that used to burn continuously in the Temple. They found only one small pitcher of oil sealed with the High Priest's insignia—enough to last for but a single day. By a miracle, however, it sufficed for eight days. In commemoration of this miracle, on the evening of the 24th of Kislev (first night of Chanukah) we light a single candle or wick steeped in oil; on each successive night of the eight-day festival, we add one more light (two on the second night, three on the third, etc.) until a total of eight are lit. There are special songs and games for this joyous holiday.

PURIM (Feast of Lots).—Occurs on the fourteenth of Adar and celebrates the triumph of Queen Esther, her cousin Mordecai and the Jews in foiling the plans of Haman, who had cast lots to exterminate all the Jews scattered throughout King Ahasuerus' 127 provinces. As a result, the Jews were saved, while


**GIVE CHANUKAH GELT
THEY WON'T WANT TO SPEND.**



Haman and his sons were put to death. Purim is a day of gladness, feasting and merry-making, marked by the sending of gifts and giving charity to the needy. It is traditional to serve a triangular cake, filled with poppy seeds and called a "Haman-Tash."

Postscript

Appropos the humorous article in last autumn's issue (Volume 1, No. 3, page 31) about the 400 shekels of silver that Patriarch Abraham paid for the cave and the land around the Mearat Hamachpela (the tomb of the patriarchs), and how much this represents in terms of dollars, a reader brought the following to our attention. The late Chief Rabbi of the British Empire, Dr. Joseph H. Hertz, in his masterful commentary on the Pentateuch, published originally in 1936, estimated that 400 shekels of silver "is a very substantial sum, perhaps equivalent to from £1,000 to £2,000 in our time." He also stated that "in the contemporary code of Hammurabi the wages of a working man for a year

are fixed at six or eight shekels." It is thus quite obvious that Abraham paid an enormous sum in those times for a place which has since been held in great veneration by all Jews and Mohammedans. Updating Dr. Hertz's estimate to take cognizance of the inflation that has occurred in the last thirty-three years, we may conservatively say that in terms of today's dollars Abraham paid from \$12,500 to \$30,000—a not inconsiderable sum. Even in those ancient days a final resting place cost quite a few shekels.

P.S. Manhattan Island, which was purchased only 3 centuries ago for \$24.00 in beads, would appear to have been by far a better real estate deal . . .

Editor

Continued from page 12

ple. Nerva proclaimed a series of popular changes, viz. the remission of the charges of the Imperial post on Italy; the distribution of corn to the people of Rome; the mandatory obligation of the Italian cities to feed orphans and poor children at public expense; and the abolition of the vindictive method of exacting the Jewish tax. The tax was not really abolished — just the method of collection.

Bronze coins of Nerva are plentiful. Except one. In 97 A.D. in Rome, Nerva struck a sestertius-sized medal to commemorate the event. OBV. IMP-(ERATOR) NERVA CAES(AR) AVG-(VSTVS) P(ONTIFEX) M(AXIMVS). TR(IBVNITIA) P(OTESTATE) COS III. P(ATER) P(ATRIAE); the Emperor Nerva Caesar Augustus, the High Priest, exercising Tribunitian Power, Consul the 3rd time, Father of the Country. The head of Nerva is laureate Rev. FISCI IVDAICI-CALVMNIA SVBLATA; the insult of the Jewish tax has been removed. In the field SC(senatus consulto). In center a palm tree.

Olive Branches on Jewish Coins: The two olive branches traditionally a symbol of peace and coexistence, were first displayed on the coins of the Hasmonean Dynasty.

DEAR MEMBER:

Please make early reservations for the trip to Jerusalem in March, 1969. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity. Contact A.I.N.A. today.

Continued from page 17

resulting bureaucratic system is discussed in the last chapter, in which the attempt was made to classify every form of human activity in its relation to the state.

The sources utilized by the author are as fascinating as his cultural synthesis.

He quotes a number of Greek and Latin writers as well as the famous work and materials of M. Theodore Reinach. He also quotes from Jewish literature of the period under consideration as well as the Alexandrian Jew Philo and the Palestinian Josephus.

Besides literary evidences are the stones, coins, utensils, potsherds and papyri which were the actual contemporaries of the events they illustrate. It is the study of evidences like these that has principally differentiated modern historical research from the methods it displaced, and in the increasing discovery of these invaluable remains our hopes of better knowledge of ancient life are centered.

The Anchor on Jewish Coins: The Anchor, which appears on coins of the Hasmonean and Herodian Dynasties, is a symbol of Jewish rule over seaboard towns, and access to the Mediterranean.

**A REQUEST
TO OUR READERS**

We would appreciate your notifying us of a change of address. Please address correspondence to:

A I N A
P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, N. Y. 10008

Chanuka One-Pound Coins

"THE LAW IS LIGHT"

The Menora is the oldest representation of the seven-branched candelabra. It is taken from a coin of the last Hasmonean ruler, Mattathias Antigonus (40-37 BC).

Obv: "1 Israel Pound" in Hebrew; below, "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic, date 5719/1958 in Hebrew and English. Designed by Zvi Narkiss.

Rev: A Menora between two eight-pointed stars; below, "Torah Or" (The Torah is Light) in Hebrew. Designed by Zvi Narkiss. Metal: cupronickel; Edge: plain; Diameter 32mm; Weight 14.2 gm.

	YEAR	MINT	MINTAGE
C-1	5719/1958	Berne	250,000
C-1a	5719/1958/Proof	Berne	5,000

"DEGANIA"

This coin commemorates the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the collective settlement of Degania, "Mother of the Kvuzot," and the jubilee of Israel's collective agricultural movement.

Obv: "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic; date 5720/1960 in Hebrew and English; below, "1 Israel Pound" in Hebrew. Designed by Miriam Karoli.

Rev: View of Degania on Lake Kinnereth with cypresses, palms, and dwellings; "Degania" in Hebrew to the left; "Jubilee of Collective Settlement" in Hebrew around the upper rim. Proof mark "M" between the two cypresses. Designed by Rothschild and Lippmann.

Metal: cupronickel; Edge: plain; Diameter 32.5mm; Weight 14.15 gm.

	YEAR	MINT	MINTAGE
C-2	5720/1960	Utrecht	100,000
C-2a	5720/1960/Proof	Utrecht	5,000

"HENRIETTA SZOLD"

This coin commemorates the centenary of the birth of Henrietta Szold, pioneer of the medical services of Israel, founder of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and outstanding personality in the Youth Aliya movement.

Obv: An aerial view of Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem; above, "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic; date 5721/1960; below, "1 Israel Pound" in Hebrew. Designed by Rothschild and Lippmann.

Rev: The cloaked figure of a shepherdess holding a newborn lamb; above left, "Henrietta Szold," commemorative dates 5621-5721, and "Hadassah-Youth Aliya" (Youth Immigration), all in Hebrew. Proof mark "M" on bottom rim. Designed by Jacob Zim.

Metal: cupronickel; Edge: plain; Diameter 32.5mm; Weight 14.2 gm.

	YEAR	MINT	MINTAGE
C-3	5721/1960	Utrecht	17,000
C-3a	5721/1960/Proof	Utrecht	3,000

"HEROISM AND SACRIFICE"

This coin commemorates the courage of the Maccabees and their individual acts of heroism. In the battle between the Maccabees and the Seleucides in 162 BC, Elazar Horan gave up his life in solitary combat against the royal elephant.

Obv: In the center, a burning torch; at right "1 Israel Pound" and date 5722/1961; on left rim, "And He Gave Up His Life in Battle" in Hebrew. Designed by Jacob Zim.

Rev: Within an incuse pentagon with unequal sides and rounded corners, a combat elephant bearing Seleucid soldiers; underneath, Elazar Horan stabs the beast. Proof mark "M" on bottom rim. Designed by Gabriel and Maxim Shamir.

Metal: cupronickel; Edge: plain; Diameter 32.2mm; Weight 14.2 gm.

	YEAR	MINT	MINTAGE
C-4	5722/1961	Utrecht	20,000
C-4a	5722/1961/Proof	Utrecht	10,000

"SEVENTEENTH CENTURY CHANUKA LAMP"

This chanuka lamp is from the collection of Bezalel National Museum in Jerusalem; it is an Italian bronze specimen dating from the 17th century.

Obv: Within an incuse triangular shape with curved sides, "1 Israel Pound" in Hebrew, "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic, and the date 5723/1962 below. Designed by Gabriel and Maxim Shamir.

Rev: Within an incuse triangular shape with curved sides, a Chanuka lamp seen from the front; "Hanukia From Italy, 17th Century" in Hebrew below lamp. Proof mark "M" below legend. Designed by Gabriel and Maxim Shamir.

Metal: cupronickel; Edge: plain; Diameter 32.2mm; Weight 14.1 gm.

	YEAR	MINT	MINTAGE
C-5	5723/1962	Berne	12,000
C-5a	5723/1962/Proof	Berne	4,100

"EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CHANUKA LAMP"

This Chanuka lamp from 18th century North Africa is made of copper and bronze. The elaborate style shows decorative elements of various architectural schools: Roman arches from southern Europe and Sicily, domes and rooftops inspired by Moslem culture, and forms reminiscent of church windows.

Obv: Upon an incuse central panel, "1 Israel Pound" in Hebrew, a decorative design separating the value from "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic and the date 5724/1963 below. Designed by Gabriel and Maxim Shamir.

Rev: Upon an incuse central panel, a Chanuka lamp seen from the front; "Chanukia From North Africa, 18th Century" in Hebrew below lamp. Proof mark "M" below legend. Designed by Gabriel and Maxim Shamir.

Metal: cupronickel; Edge: plain; Diameter 32.2mm; Weight 14.1 gm.

	YEAR	MINT	MINTAGE
C-6	5724/1963	Utrecht	10,000
C-6a	5724/1963/Proof	Utrecht	5,500

"HALF-SHEKEL"

This coin is designed for actual service as a token payment for the customary Jewish seasonal collection, connected with the Purim Festival in the month of Adar (February-March), of the equivalent of one-half shekel, which every male Jew over 20 years of age had to pay to the Temple before its destruction in AD 70.

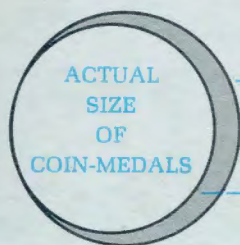
1961/5721/ Obverse 1962/5722/

Obv: In center, "Half Israeli Pound" in Hebrew; "Israel" above in Hebrew, at right in Arabic; date at left. Proof mark "M" below center. Designed by Rothschild and Lippmann.

Rev: A raised reproduction of an ancient silver half-shekel with beaded rim from the third year of the Jewish-Roman War (AD 66-70), showing in center a chalice, above the chalice two Hebrew letters meaning "Year 3," and a surrounding legend reading "Half a Shekel," all in ancient Hebrew script. Designed by Rothschild and Lippmann.

Metal: cupronickel; Edge: plain; Diameter 30mm; Weight 12 gm.

	YEAR	MINT	MINTAGE
C-7	5721/1961	Utrecht	20,000
C-7a	5721/1961/Proof	Utrecht	5,000
C-8	5722/1962	Utrecht	20,000
C-8a	5722/1962/Proof	Utrecht	10,000



ISRAEL'S 6 CHANUKAH COINS



1958
"THE LAW IS LIGHT"



1960
DEGANIA



1960
HENRIETTA SZOLD



1961
HEROISM AND SACRIFICE



1962
17th CENT. CHANUKAH LAMP



1963
18th Century Chanukah Coin
HEROISM AND SACRIFICE

ISRAEL'S 2 PURIM COINS



1961

Obverse

1962

For details see inside back cover